

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 03109 301635Z

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SSO-00 AGR-10 /028 W

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O R 301620Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO AMEMBASSY RABAT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2606

UNCLAS TUNIS 3109

RABAT FOR JACOBSON AND WRIGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, TS

SUBJECT: TSS AGRICULTURAL LAND DTOTIUMENT

REF: USDOC 7252, TUNIS 2874

1. IN LIEU OF SECTION ON TUNISIA IN ASST SECY LONG'S SPEECH
PROPOSED PARA 10 USDOC REFTEL, WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING QUOTE:

ALTHOUGH I'M TOLD THAT AGRICULTURE NOW CONTRIBUTES DIRECTLY
LESS THAN 20 PERCENT OF NATIONAL OUTPUT IN TUNISIA, HALF OF
YOUR POPULATION IS STILL ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURAL PURSUITS.
THIS UNDERLINES THE IMPORTANCE OF INCREASING AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTIVITY IN ORDER TO MEET THE NEEDS OF TUNISIA'S GROWING
AND INCREASINGLY PROSPEROUS POPULATION AND OF ITS TOURIST
SECTOR AS WELL AS TO PROVIDE SOME EXPORT EARNINGS. EXCELLENT
PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE, PARTICULARLY UNDER THE PRESENT
FOUR-YEAR PLAN, IN EXTENDING LAND UTILIZATION AND THE
EFFICIENCY OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, IN PART THROUGH
BETTER USE OF TECHNOLOGY, MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT, AND IRRI-
GATION AS WELL AS BY INTRODUCING NEW HIGH-YIELDING WHEAT
AND RURAL EXTENSION SERVICES. WE ARE PROUD THAT THE
US HAS PARTICIPATED IN THIS EFFORT. WE BELIEVE THAT WE
HAVE TECHNOLOGICAL LEADERSHIP IN SOME AREAS OF AGRICULTURE
AND AGRIBUSINESS WHICH ARE INCREASINGLY RELEVANT TO YOU AS
YOU SEEK TO FURTHER INCREASE YIELDS WHILE AT THE SAME TIME
EXPANDING EMPLOYMENT OUTSIDE THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR.

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SPECIFICALLY, THE SHORTAGE OF WATER IN SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL

TUNISIA NECESSITATES MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY IN ITS UTILIZATION.
THE US IS ANXIOUS TO SHARE ITS TECHNOLOGY WITH YOU THROUGH
INCREASED TRADE AND INVESTMENT. AS IT IS, WE ARE BUYING SIGNIFICANT
QUANTITIES
OF TUNISIAN PETROLEUM AND STEEL
BARS AS WELL AS OLIVE OIL, WINE AND
HANDICRAFTS. UNQUOTE.

2. RE SEMINAR SCHEDULE: DUE TYPE PRESENTATION AND FOR
CONTINUITY, HAVE INTERCHANGED FMC AND AMOCO IN SCHEDULE
PROPOSED TUNIS REFTTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976TUNIS03109
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760165-0261
From: TUNIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976041/aaaaaall.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION COME
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 TUNIS 2874
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 OCT 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 OCT 2004 by cookms>; APPROVED <02 NOV 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TSS AGRICULTURAL LAND DTOTIUMENT
TAGS: BEXP, TS
To: COM RABAT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006